

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5-7, 12-16, 19-20 are amended, and claims 22-25 are added. Support for the amended and new claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims and the drawings. Withdrawal of the rejections in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 11 and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claims 1, 5-7, 12-13, 16, 19-20 for minor informalities. By this Amendment, the claims have been amended to obviate the objections. Accordingly, withdrawal of claim objections is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. Claims 14 and 15 have been amended to obviate the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 and 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,646,625 to Shigeta et al. (hereinafter "Shigeta"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claim 1, Shigeta does not teach nor suggest "... a method for driving a plasma display panel, which has a first frame period... and a second frame period... wherein the first frame period and the second frame period are varied differently from each other."

Shigeta teaches a method for driving a plasma display panel which involves displacing the center of gravity of light-emission of only one of two consecutive frames of an image. However, the Shigeta method does not vary the frame periods themselves. Shigeta merely changes how one of two consecutive frames of an image are displayed within non-varying frame periods. For instance, in the method shown in Figures 26A and 26B, the start time for displaying a first frame in drive mode (A) is delayed. The start time for displaying the second, consecutive frame in drive mode (B) is not delayed. Thus, only the first frame is varied. Note, however, the frame time periods themselves do not vary.

Because Shigeta does not disclose or suggest a method in which any frame periods are varied, let alone a method in which both first and second frame periods are varied, and wherein they are varied differently from each other, as recited in claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that

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claim 1 is allowable. Dependent claims 2-6 are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as for their added features.

Regarding independent claim 7, Shigeta does not teach nor suggest a method that includes "...determining whether a frame period is varied on the basis of order of an inputted vertical synchronization signal; varying the frame period according to whether the frame period is varied;"

As discussed above, Shigeta does not vary the frame periods themselves. Instead, Shigeta varies how one of two consecutive frames of an image is displayed within the predetermined and non-varying frame periods. In contrast, Applicant teaches that the vertical synchronization signals which define the beginning and ending points for a frame period are actually output at varying times, depending on how the frames themselves are to be varied. Applicant teaches that when a first frame is lengthened by a particular amount, a second consecutive frame would be shortened by a corresponding amount such that the total time required for both frame periods is the same as if the frame periods had not been varied.

Because Shigeta fails to disclose or suggest a method which involves varying the frame periods themselves, it is respectfully submitted that claim 7 is allowable. Claim 16, which recites similar features, is also allowable for the same reasons. Further, dependent claims 8-15 and 17-21, which depend from claims 7 and 16, respectively, are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims, and because of the additional features that they recite.

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New Claims 22-25

By this Amendment, claims 22-25 are added to the application. These claims depend from claim 21 and are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above in connection with claim 1, and for the additional features that they recite.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **John C. Eisenhart**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

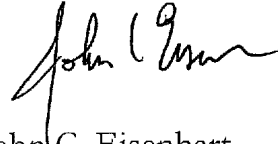
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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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